

WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY.

St. Louis, Dec. 31, 1884

Dr. Asa Gray: Dear Sir-

Your very kind letter was received last Sunday, & to-day I called on Mr. Shaw at his City home. The weather has been too bad for me to go out to his Tower Grove residence. He has written a new will through out, with his own hand, which he intends this week to submit to Judge Madill, - one of our best Lawyers & a Professor in our Univ. of Law School. He could not have chosen a better advisor. Evidently he wishes to consult you on several points & especially as to practicability of putting the School of Botany into immediate action, - & said he intended to write to you to-day. I told him your general plans & that you were willing to come if ~~he~~ he thought it important.

In my judgment it is very important & I hope you can arrange it so. Mr. Shaw is plainly open to advice if coming from some one in whom he confides & is more disposed to consult the general interests of education than heretofore. He asked me several leading questions as to the University but my relations to it are so close & it is so nearly a personal interest that I feel shy in making suggestions.

If you & Mrs. Gray can come, it would

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give Mrs. Eliot & me great pleasure to have you at our house. We can give you comfortable rooms & plain fare & cordial welcome. If we know the day, I will meet you at the Station.

If you possibly can, put some MSS. in your satchel, so as to give at least a familiar talk to our friends. Perhaps a real inauguration will be made possible!

Very truly Yrs.
W. G. Eliot

St. Louis. Washington Avenue, 2660.

Is my residence to which please come directly, if I should fail to meet you at Station. W. G. E.